

Travel Tribulations



SHANE WEBB | NW MISSOURIAN

Police watch over protesters at the Kansas City International Airport Sunday demonstrating against the Trump administration's ban on refugees and travelers from seven Middle Eastern countries.

Northwest issues statement standing behind community members impacted by the recent travel ban

JAMES HENDERSON
Editor in Chief | @jendersoniii

Northwest President John Jasinski announced in an email to faculty and staff that the University does not support the travel ban on seven Muslim-majority nations.

Showing solidarity with many other major universities, Jasinski's email expressed Northwest is a haven for diversity and President Donald Trump's executive order does not promote these beliefs.

"As you know, an executive order on immigration was signed (Jan. 30)," Jasinski's email said. "Much is being studied, analyzed, written and debated about the order. My reason for sending you a note today is simple – all are welcome at Northwest Missouri State University."

Trump's ban prevents citizens from Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Yemen, Syria, Sudan and Libya for the next 90 days. It also prevents refugees from entering the country for the next 120 days.

While Northwest has no students nor faculty from the countries on the list, Director of Admissions and International Programs Jeffery Foot said the decision to not support this ban is because it runs counter to the purpose of a university.

"In alignment with statements made by the AASCU (American Association of State Colleges and Universities) and many other learning communities across the United States... all of these major universities have come together to say banning or restricting people based on nationality is something that runs

counter to the idea of a modern education," Foot said.

Jasinski also referenced the statement from the AASCU in his email, saying the University was supportive of the organization's position.

"The United States has long benefitted from scientific, cultural and economic contributions of international students and scholars," the AASCU statement said. "America's state colleges and universities have been strengthened by the presence of students and faculty from around the globe, including those from the seven countries specifically targeted by the president's executive order. We share in the collective commitment to protect our national security while at the same time enriching our nation with invaluable contribu-

tions from abroad. Accordingly, we respectfully urge the administration to reconsider its recent action."

Like AASCU, Jasinski said the University respects the need to safeguard our nation, but that the executive orders may have been a rash decision.

"We are supportive of enhancing our national security, but believe a ban on immigration requires more discussion and thought," Jasinski said. "We need to ensure every member of our community feels safe, respected and welcome. Please do your part."

Foot said he believes education involves developing an understanding of diversity. He said being comfortable thinking in multiple different schools of thought is an important part of higher education.

"I think the realignment of Northwest's core begins to address these types of issues," Foot said. "I have confidence that the system put in this year will eventually bear fruit. I think if done right and done well and professors are able to provide a broad range of knowledge and issues, that is core to how a modern westernized education system should work., then students will have the ability to think constructively about education."

This executive order did not only spark response from the nation's universities and colleges. Airports across the country filled with protesters speaking against President Trump's latest immigration moves.

SEE **BAN** | A5

Farm bill could extend visas

ANTHONY PROCOPIO ROSS
Chief Reporter | @AnthonyProcRoss

A new bill announced in early January would allow foreign workers with appropriate visas to do farming work in the United States for spans of three years.

Congresswoman Elise Stefanik and Congressman Chris Collins introduced this bill, named the Family Farm Relief Act of 2017.

"Agriculture is the backbone of our North Country economy and I am pleased to introduce this important bill to address the labor shortages facing our farmers," Stefanik said in a press release.

The H-2A visa is a temporary work visa for foreign agricultural workers, with a job offer for seasonal agricultural work in the U.S., according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website. The H-2A visa program is open to foreign workers that the United States Secretary of Homeland Se-



ALEXIS GEISERT | NW MISSOURIAN

Junior Brandon Quido and dairy production manager Ray hook up milkers to the dairy cows Jan. 29 at R.T. Wright University Laboratory Farm.

curity has designated as eligible to participate, and is revised annually.

If adapted into law, farmers would no longer have to advertise

to local workers before applying for international visas.

SEE **FARM** | A5

State budget cuts yield discussion about tuition hike

ANTHONY PROCOPIO ROSS
Chief Reporter | @AnthonyProcRoss

Northwest is preparing for state cuts, taking care in crafting beneficial plans for students and staff.

Gov. Eric Greitens announced his plans for cutting \$67 million in core funding to four-year schools Jan. 16.

Since then, the Northwest Leadership Team has been working on solutions and strategies to work with Northwest's planned cut of \$2.2 million. Student Senate, along with Faculty Senate and staff council, are also being included in the conversation.

Student Senate President Hannah Sears was given the opportunity by the administration to join the recent conversations about budget cuts to higher education in Missouri. Sears said she wants people to engage with her organization to get student opinion in the open.

"We crave the presence of productive and vocal students that want to engage in the discussions that

most directly impact the student body," Sears said. "We value diversity in thought and perspective, and encourage students to attend our meetings or follow our agenda through social media platforms. The primary goal we set for ourselves this year was to be transparent and accessible to every student, every day."

Sears said the Student Senate is prepared to share students' opinions on the budget, but wanted people to recognize the challenges that lie ahead for Northwest.

"The administration, through the implementation of the strategic plan, strives daily to keep the Bearcat experience affordable and memorable," Sears said.

Sears went on to say he believes this problem is resting in the hands of a competent team, looking to do all they can for the student and the University.

SEE **BUDGET** | A5

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Window repairs continue this winter

ANNA HASTERT
News Editor | @AnnaHasDirt

Construction workers continue to work around the clock in hopes of completing window renovations to the Administration Building in time for spring.

Over winter break, members of E.L. Crawford, based out of St. Joseph, logged 14 to 15 working days. Senior Project Manager Jon Gridler said members of E.L. Crawford were able to complete a significant amount of work during the break.

“They were able to move much quicker. They were still protecting the interior, but didn’t have to worry as much about the cold. We did lose a few days to the cold, but had a really good run over the break,” Gridler said.

Facility Services hopes for substantial completion by late April.

Other renovations made to the Administration Building over winter break include the rejuvenation of the third floor area. Owner of Built In Kansas City Tiffany Moore said E.L. Crawford updated a widely used space within the third floor area.

“We took out some very old finishes in the center of the third floor area, which is a large area students use,” Moore said. “It’s also where the dietetics department has its Friday Night Cafe event. So, this is a space they use.”

Moore said many components

of the third floor area encapsulated old design and structural elements.

“It was very dated, (had) very old flooring and all hard surfaces, so there was a lot of ambient noise,” Moore said. “All of that has been removed, and now has carpeting. Some of the more dated finishes and paints (pink and coral), have all been updated. Inside the dietetics area, we removed the carpet, put down new carpet and refreshed the paint.”

Northwest utilized E.L. Crawford for the refresh project. Moore said Northwest’s existing relationship with E.L. Crawford proved not only beneficial to the company, but to the University as well.

“There was a benefit of using the same (contractor), so that they could coordinate with themselves,” Moore said. “The windows were being done in some of the same rooms that were being refreshed, and the one superintendent could coordinate the crews that were working inside and outside.

They were also able to pull people onto the refresh project when it was too cold to work outside, so there was a nice synergy by having the same contractor on both jobs.”

Facility Services completed a number of projects over the winter break, with the most notable project being the Mel Carnahan Reading Center.

Gridler said the reading center adjoins with the Student Senate office, and is a very comfortable and

nice space.

“Basically, the Mel Carnahan Reading Center is an open space that has a meeting table at the end, but then some really nice seating with really user-friendly tables in between that you can plug-in. The Student Senate is sectioned out on that as well, and that office space is specifically for the president of the Student Senate.

The Mel Carnahan Reading Center, funded through the Student Senate, serves the purpose of a study room for Northwest students.

Future improvements to be made by Facility Services include a reimagined space for students in Garrett-Strong.

Moore says Facility Services plans to refresh the rotunda, located on the second floor of Garrett-Strong.

“We relocated the vending machines that had been in the rotunda on the second floor to make way for a complete refresh of the rotunda, completely reimagining what that space will be for student use,” Moore said. “The vending machines are not gone, they’ve just been moved. Two of them are easy to find; they’re in the corridor on the way back to the lecture halls and the other two are in the north corridor, all on the second floor.”

Moore said Facility Services hopes to recreate the rotunda space by the end of the 2016-2017 school year, if not sooner.



ALEXIS GESIERT | NW MISSOURIAN

Facility Services says the window replacement project in the Administration Building should be completed by April, leaving workers in the building to keep shivering through the winter months.



DARCIE BRADFORD | NW MISSOURIAN

The exterior of the building may not show it, but workers have been shoring up interior walls before replacing the outside.

Third, Buchanan bowing wall will soon be replaced

DARCIE BRADFORD
Managing Editor | @darcie_jeanne_7

Contractors continue to make progress in repairs to the building condemned and evacuated last year at the corner of Third and Buchanan streets.

Dave Bombara, owner of Bombara Masonry LLC, said while it has been a slow process, improvements are being made and soon the exterior portion of the dangerously bowing wall will be replaced.

Bombara said once it has been approved by an engineer for his company to move their work from the basement to the upstairs portion of the building, he plans to replace the bowing wall.

“Where the wall actually looks bad on the north side, beams will be parallel to the wall there and we will jack it up so it is holding the building up,” Bombara said. “It will be from the ground up to 10 feet (in height), and right now the blueprints call for 48 feet (in length). We will be working on it in 16 foot sections. We will take out 10 by 16 foot chunks, support that section with our jacks and replace it.”

The existing west wall of the building was built using multiple layers of masonry.

The original interior layers are made of brick and mortar, while exterior layers built later are made of cinder blocks. When the inner layer shifted due to rotting mortar, it caused the outer layers to bow as well. Bombara said the mortar was so rotten it looked like sand.

So far, the improvements have been made in the basement of the building.

Sister joists have been installed to reinforce the original floor joists, which were rotting, permanent shoring has been installed, a section of the interior wall has been rebuilt and a ledger board, a board attached to studding to help support the joists, has also been installed.

Residents were evacuated from their homes Nov. 2. City officials received a call from a concerned citizen and after an investigation, deemed the Third St. building too dangerous to enter due to the bowing wall.

The building was home to Miss Whitney’s Elite School of Dance on the ground floor and three apartments on the second floor, all owned by Maryville resident Michael Smith.

It is believed the building was built in the late 1880s by using unreinforced masonry construction. This means the building was missing steel rebar support and was built only using brick and stone.

Bombara said the owner of the building, Michael Smith, is dedicated to maintaining the structural integrity, as it is one of the oldest buildings in Maryville.

Municipal Code Enforcement Officer Jim Wiederholt said in a previous interview with the Missourian that while most of the buildings in downtown Maryville were all built around the same time and the city of Maryville does not mandate regular inspections, he has no concerns for any of the other buildings.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

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10am - 2pm @ Union Info Tables

FEB 3

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7pm @ The Station Center

FEB 8

Janaya Khan Lecture
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FEB 9

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FEB 17

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The Dean L. Hubbard Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship will be the new home for the School of Agricultural Sciences next fall.

DYLAN COLDSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN

Moo-ving Day

School of Agricultural Sciences outgrows Valk Center

KYLE YEHLÉ
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

For the first time since the early 1990s, Northwest’s School of Agricultural Sciences is relocating. As part of Northwest’s Campus Master Plan, the school is moving from the Valk Center to the Dean L. Hubbard Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE). Officials estimate the transition to be finished in time for the start of the fall 2017 trimester. School of Agricultural Sciences Director Rod Barr said there are several factors behind the shift, centering on an influx of students into the program. “We’re up 40 percent over the last

five years in the School of Agricultural Sciences – 11 percent in the last year,” Barr said. “As we continue to grow, we have outgrown the facility at Valk. In addition to that, the CIE offers us some really unique opportunities.” Barr said the extra benefits are hard to pass up. “We can utilize a research chemist in the CIE that will provide some opportunities for undergraduate research,” Barr said. “A lot of our faculty collaborates with individuals in the CIE. It will also allow some collaboration between the School of Agricultural Sciences and Department of Natural Sciences.” The Department of Natural Sciences occupies one wing of the CIE. Workers will remodel the oth-

er wing – which was intended for business incubation – this summer to accommodate the incoming program, Barr said. Those renovations include three classrooms to hold 45 students each, one classroom to hold 75 students and a lab space for 24 students. Despite the revamping, business incubation will continue to be a facet of the facility. Barr indicated the program will utilize the McKemy Center on the north side of campus as well. “They’ll be putting in a wall for our large lecture hall,” Barr said. “The east end is used right now for some classes, but that will be a sitting area for students to congregate between classes. Our computer lab,

trading room and recording studio will be in there as well.” Students have presented concerns in regards to parking in the CIE area compared to Lots 20 and 22 adjacent to Valk, Barr said. The only lots in the CIE area available for non-resident students are Lots 28-30 – with two of those much closer to the McKemy Center than the CIE building – and a slim portion of Lot 32 surrounding Forest Village Apartments. “We’re still working on the parking issue,” Barr said. “It’s part of the Master Plan as we move forward. It looks like there probably will be enough parking. It may not be right next to the building, but it’s going to be close.”

Barr gave no indication the renovations would include a new parking lot in the area. After the School of Agricultural Sciences vacates Valk, faculty in the Garrett-Strong Science Building will move in, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Michael Steiner said. “[The faculty] are in other disciplines within the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences,” Steiner said. “This will include the National Guard GOLD program. Those plans are still somewhat fluid as we assess space.” The faculty will relocate to Valk “in stages as space is made ready for them” throughout the 2017-2018 school year, Steiner said.

Curriculum changes accepted by regents

BROOKE BEASLEY
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

A university board covered upcoming changes in educational curriculum programs, as well as relocations for the Campus Master Plan at their recent meeting. At the Board of Regents meeting on Jan. 27, Provost Timothy Mottet presented eight new curriculum proposals to the board.

The first proposal was for the School of Education. The board approved motion for the special topics class. “A special topics course gives the faculty an opportunity to teach a course they have interest in, but it’s not on the schedule,” Mottet said. The other seven curriculum opportunities were for the Emergency and Disaster Management program. A few courses were renamed to provide students with an easier

sequencing of courses. That means that the numbers or names of the courses line up to make scheduling easier for students. The board also approved to add two new courses to the Emergency and Disaster Management program. “We’re adding two new courses to make sure that curriculum is benchmarked with the other emergency management programs in the United States,” Mottet said. The board also approved the

proposal to apply for a grant to fund the rebuilding of a playground. According to the Campus Master Plan, the Horace Mann playground is to be deconstructed and rebuilt in a different place over the summer if the grant goes through in time. The last proposal approved by the board was the plan to make a reimbursement resolution. This was proposed by Vice President of Finance Stacy Carrick. If the

University does a reimbursement resolution, it will be able to get money back applying when debt in the future. “As we move forward with some of the construction related to the Master Plan, we anticipate needing to do some debt findings,” Carrick said. “With debt findings, we find it best to do a reimbursement resolution.” The next Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for March 17.


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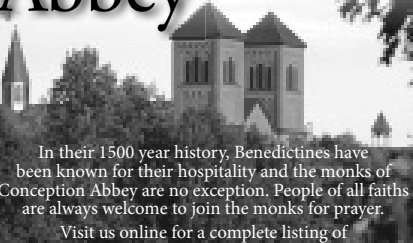
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Binge-watch your way to a better person



Imagine spending 85 hours watching a television show because you become so completely engulfed in the characters and storyline. Unless you have been living under a rock, I am sure you have heard of the Showtime television show “Shameless.” This show was truly everything I never knew I needed and I watched all seven seasons in a little over a month.

Girls my age were always obsessed with a new show when I was younger, such as “Gossip Girl,” “One Tree Hill” or “Laguna Beach.” I never went through those phases like my friends and older sister did. I just never felt the connection they felt. “Shameless” was first released in the U.K. in 2004, then in the U.S. in 2011, but has recently become popular and is even trending on Netflix. In the show, Fiona Gallagher, one of six Gallagher children, takes it upon herself to raise her siblings when her alcoholic dad Frank and seemingly absent mom do not take the responsibility. Spoiling as little of the plot as possible, the Gallagher clan works through seven (soon to be eight) seasons of issues I could never imagine being faced with. If you know me, you probably think what a majority of people think: a brat with a bad attitude, little emotion and serious resting b**** face. This show changed who I am almost immediately and had me in tears within the first season.

Throughout the alternating of laughter and tears, “Shameless” shows you that everyone around you is fighting a battle you know nothing about. As cliché as that sounds, it is something that we all need to remember, especially in a time where our world is so full of hate.

This show opens up about typically taboo topics that are becoming more and more popular in everyday life: poverty, mental illness, LGBT+ community, fertility issues and so many more relatable topics. Although I have not been faced with many of the series’ issues personally, the writers make the topics seem so much more real and close to my life.

The actors care about the topics in the show and take things seriously. The characters, including the minor ones, are well-developed.

The series can be rather raunchy at times, but there is something for everyone and this show makes you feel feelings you did not know you had. My grandma even watches the show, and she is in her 60s.

Although I do love talking about “Shameless” and sharing my love for it with others, that is not why I am writing this.

I am writing this to hopefully convince you to watch a show that could open your eyes to issues you never knew existed. We all cannot experience every issue in the world, but being able to sympathize is important in a time of such hate and misunderstanding.



COLIN VAUGHN | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:

Muslim ban does nothing to protect America

As a staff last semester, we decided we would not comment on President Trump’s twitter posts or media rants. We would try to rise above the main stream media and focus on real issues that are affecting the people on Northwest’s campus and try not to join the mudslinging. However, it is impossible for us to ignore the Muslim ban. President Trump signed an executive order banning immigrants for the next 90 days from seven countries: Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Yemen, Syria, Sudan and Libya. The United States is also no longer accepting refugees for the next 120 days. People with dual nationalities are included in the ban. CNN has also reported legal U.S. citizens with visas are being barred from a flight back to the states. Trump stated his goal with this executive order is to prevent Muslims from entering the country. “Donald J. Trump is calling for a complete and total shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country’s representatives

can figure out what the hell is going on,” Trump said shortly after the San Bernardino shootings. More recently, Rudy Giuliani described the conversation he had with the president prior to signing the ban into action to the Washington Post. “I’ll tell you the whole history of it,” Giuliani said.. “So when (Trump) first announced it, he said, ‘Muslim ban.’ He called me up. He said, ‘Put a commission together. Show me the right way to do it legally.’” In case anyone is confused, an executive order is not a law. An executive order is how the president chooses to enforce an existing law and his or her interpretation of that law. Trump claimed he is protecting American citizens from “radical muslims.” He has made the decision to suspend habeas corpus, meaning he does not have to tell immigrants stuck in airports why they are being detained, questioned and searched. In short, what President Trump is doing is illegal and unethical. Under the Immigration and

Nationality Act of 1965, the United States is not allowed to ban immigrants based on race, religion or nationality. Trump continues to disregard the laws of the country by saying he will give Christian immigrants priority over non-Christian immigrants, a clear violation of the first amendment. A president is not allowed to suspend habeas corpus except in times of immediate danger and threat to national security. No matter how Trump and xenophobes choose to spin it, our country is not in any form of immediate danger. If anything, Trump is creating more hate and disdain toward America. National security analyst Peter Bergen attempted to show Trump and his supporters if they really wanted to cut down on terrorist attacks, they would restrict access to guns. “You went through 330 cases of terror prosecuted in the United States since September 11. Who are the 330?” Bergen said. “Well, they’re overwhelmingly Americans. In fact,

the sample size since we last spoke has grown to something like 375 cases since 9/11. Four out of five cases are American citizens, legal residents and very few are refugees—about a dozen. None of those cases involve acts of lethal terrorism or attempted lethal terrorism.” Trump is not doing anything to protect national security by implementing a Muslim ban. He continues to victimize himself and the American people without forcing anyone to take responsibility for their actions. Detainees were held at airports without access to communication. Thousands of protesters flocked to major airports to show their support. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is at the forefront of the protests with lawyers ready to stand next to immigrants and protect their unalienable rights. As noble as their actions are, they should not be necessary. These refugees are people. They are children, parents, teachers and friends. We cannot continue to scapegoat entire races and countries for problems we are causing ourselves.

Trump’s hatred of media is concerning



President Donald Trump is a controversial topic; he has done and said many things that have caused uproar among Americans in his first two weeks in office. However, I believe his hatred of the media is perhaps one of his biggest flaws as president and should leave every citizen, Trump supporter or not, concerned. On several occasions he has tried to discredit the media, mocked the media, called journalists among the most dishonest beings on earth, incited violence against the media and claimed the media is “rigged” against him. This leaves many Americans wondering if they can trust the media, what role the media even plays in today’s society and if they cannot trust the media, why would they

even need it? To answer this question, let us go back to the beginning, to when the founding fathers were creating the Bill of Rights. In the First Amendment, they created several freedoms such as freedom of speech, religion and press. The First Amendment states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” The founding fathers specifically provided the media with this broad freedom because it was and still is necessary. A strong press independent of the government is essential for a democracy to function effectively. Citizens have to be able to make informed decisions when voting in elections, and in order for citizens to make informed decisions they need to have a way to be informed about their candidates, various issues and policy changes. Without the media,

citizens would be left to vote blindly. The media has also been described as the fourth branch of government or a watchdog meant to keep government officials accountable by keeping citizens informed about their actions in office. Local media is also important, knowing what is going on in your community, city council and other local offices will help you to be informed and be involved in your community. As much as you may hate the media, as much as you try to avoid the news, how would you know what was going on in the nation if you did not have it? It is vital to know what is happening in the world around you because everything will affect you. Taxes approved by your city council affect you, ordinances passed in your city will affect you, budget cuts in your state will affect you and the executive orders signed by President Trump will affect you. The media not only is important because of the information it offers citizens and how it holds the government

accountable, but because without the media, citizens would not know what they can do to incite change. If it were not for the media, the recent marches and protests would not have happened. People would not be contacting their representatives and congress men and women about issues they wish to change. Without the media, the government would function as a private sector and the public would be in the dark about their decisions, our relationships with foreign nations, law changes and how they can expect their life to change in the near future as a result. I understand the media is not a well-respected entity anymore, but I believe that is because people have lost sight of the importance of the media in their lives and have gotten lost in the fake news they see on social media. The media is important; the media is essential for our democracy to function correctly. Watching our president be unable to understand this is beyond concerning.

STAFF

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r.boren.missourian@gmail.com.



Northwest senior Kreighton Elwood displays a sign quoting a tweet from Vice President Mike Pence before he was Trump's running mate.

BAN

CONTINUED FROM A1

Senior Kreighton Elwood went to one such protest at Kansas City International Airport (KCI). The protest, comprised of about 200-300 people, huddled together chant-

ing and waving signs. Elwood said he felt it to be his job to do all he can to speak out for what he feels is right.

"I'm (at KCI) to show that we are here for everyone," Elwood said. "We're not afraid to let people into our nation because where do you draw the line when you let in some people and not others?"

The protest lasted from 2-5 p.m. Jan. 29, in conjunction with the other protests across the country. While the gathering at KCI was not massive, Elwood said he felt it important to be a small contributor to something much larger.

He also said he hopes people will hear what the protesters had to say.

"Hopefully we get heard from the congressmen and the governor and anyone who represents Kansas City and realizes what is happening doesn't speak for KC," Elwood said. "That the president doesn't speak for us."

Jasinski rounded out the email with resources he felt could benefit students affected by the execu-

tive orders.

"In closing, we are asking students who have any questions, want to share concerns or simply need to talk to reach out to Dr. Juanita Simmons, our vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion, or Dr. Jeff Foot, director of admissions and international programs," Jasinski said.



Junior Brandon Quido hooks up a milker to one of the Dairy cows Jan. 29 at R.T. Wright University Labratory Farm.

FARM

CONTINUED FROM A1

Changes would allow farmers to extend their employment reach by not striking requirements to hire any qualified American who applies through the first half of the work period and having to offer jobs to previously employed immigrant workers.

"When I travel the district speaking with our farmers, I often hear about how unnecessary delays in worker visas lead to difficulty meeting production goals. This commonsense legislation simply

puts the H-2A agricultural visa program in the hands of those who best understand the specific needs of our farms," said Stefanik.

The bill would allow foreign workers to work for three years, and leave for three months before renewing their visas again.

Northwest Senior Amy Bunse works on her family's dairy farm and thinks the idea for the expanding time foreign employees can work is great for struggling farmers.

"I've talked to other dairy farmers that I know and they seem to be on board," Bunse said. "We need help. It's hard to find help.

Being able to get year-round help is great for farmers."

There is a lot of work to be done on a dairy farm, Bunse said. Training people to be up to par on the farm takes time, and duties are not easy to master.

"I know there are probably people who say that we need to give those jobs to Americans, and if Americans want to do those jobs that's fine, but there's a lot of Mexicans who need work," Bunse said. "If they like the work, then I think they should be allowed to come here and work. We need good workers, so we'll take what we can get."

Donor's generosity provides Northwest first endowment

KATIE STEVENSON
Chief Reporter | @Katiesue_62442

Northwest is making history with its first endowed professorship, the product of \$500,000 cash gift from an alumnus.

The gift, which established the Dennis C. Dau Endowed Professorship in Instrumental Music, was received Jan. 20 by the endowments namesake.

An endowed professorship gives recognition to faculty members who have had continued exemplary service in his or her field. Someone who has had an extended impact on the people around him or her, and stands as a role model for other faculty, staff and students.

For Provost Timothy Mottet, the professorship was long overdue and helps show the success of the University.

"A hallmark of any great university is one that has endowed professorships," Mottet said. "If you have endowed professorships, it shows that you have academic programs that are of the highest quality and have attracted a donor who is invested in the University's success."

Dennis C. Dau graduated from Northwest in 1970 with a bachelor's degree, and in 1971 he obtained a master's degree. During his time at Northwest, Dau played the snare drum in the Bearcat Marching Band and the clarinet in the Northwest Wind Symphony.

Dau said he hopes the money will help the instrumental programs at Northwest grow and draw in more

professors.

"The instrumental music programs are very strong now," Dau said. "This will just enhance it and make it more lucrative to hire people in the future. This was a way to help the instrumental music department and provide something that would continue into the future."

Mottet hopes Dau's gracious donation will not only elevate student learning, but also encourage others to donate to Northwest as well.

"I would like for it to have a contagion effect where other donors will have an interest in donating to the University," Mottet said. "However, when it is all said and done, it will also improve the students' learning, which to me is the most critical piece."

Mottet said he hopes the new professorship will help make Northwest's academics more widely known.

"When you are able to say that you have an endowed professorship, it is a very high honor," Mottet said. "It affects everyone at the University, and for faculty it is one of the greatest honors they could receive. In the end, it helps elevate everyone at the university and helps put our academics on the map."

For Dau, the professorship was just a way to give back to the University, which helped shape his life and career.

"I'm pleased that I'm able to give back now after having a career in music," Dau said. "I'm very proud of the department and the students that they prepare."

Blotters for the week of Jan. 24

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Jan. 24

A summons was issued to **Megan B. Rickman**, 19, for a drug law violation at Lot 38.

Jan. 25

Three summonses were issued for a liquor law violation at Milikan Hall.

Jan. 26

A summons was issued for stealing at Perrin Hall.

Jan. 29

A summons was issued for a liquor law violation at Hudson Hall.

A summons was issued for a liquor law violation at Hudson Hall.

A summons was issued for a liquor law violation at the Station.

BUDGET CONTINUED FROM A1

"Simply put, we have some extraordinarily passionate and dedicated people vying on our behalf to keep higher education attainable for all who desire to reap its benefits. The administration is determined to exhaust every available option before financially burdening the students."

Vice President of Finance Stacy Carrick says Northwest has seen a decrease in funding at the state level already in years past.

"What's happened over the last 20 to 30 years is a shift in funding," Carrick

said. "A lot of states have turned to higher education, and looked at higher education and the overall state budgets as discretionary funding. They have begun to decrease funding at the state level. It has forced institutions to look at ways to increase the tuition and fees."

Carrick said Northwest is doing the best it can in being resourceful to lessen the impact on students with an increase in tuition.

"It is a constant challenge and something we make sure we are looking at when we are minimizing increases and doing our due diligence," Carrick said. "To expect no increase is probably not rea-

(PSST!)

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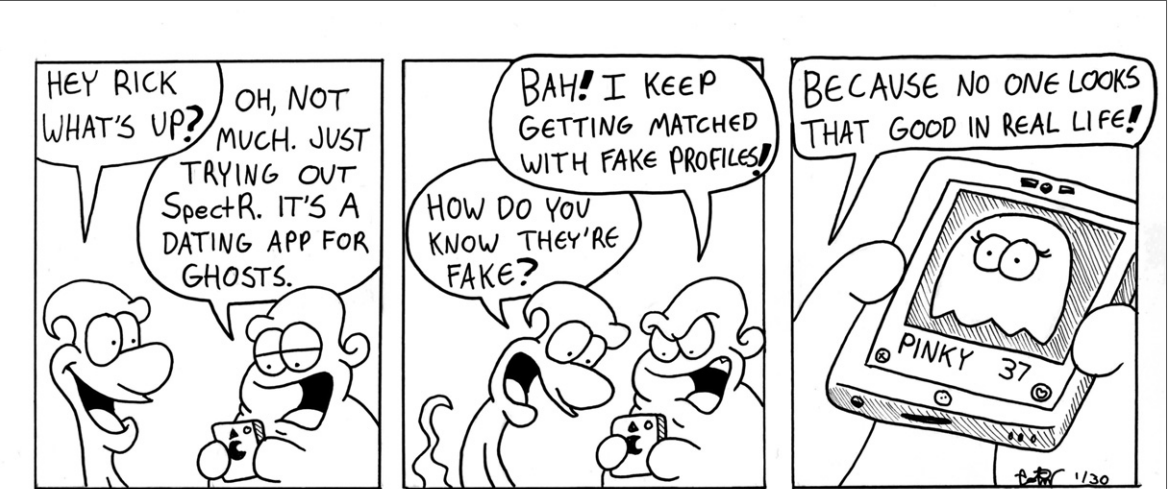
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#ICYMI

Doomsday. It has been looming over our heads since WWII, the clock slowly counting down, nuclear war getting closer and closer. The group behind the Doomsday clock just announced in a press release that the time just got much closer: two and a half minutes to be exact. The group claims the clock moving is due to Trump being elected.

Basements are a great place for hanging out, napping and for one Idaho family finding a moose. The police said the moose entered through a well window. Originally, they tried to corral the moose up the stairs to freedom, but she kept rushing them, so they tranquilized her. She then passed out moments later next to a Bob Marley tapestry.

Tostitos has done some pretty funky bag designs, but this year the company took it to a new level. The bags for Super Bowl Sunday double as a Breathalyzer test that come with a \$10 off coupon for those who blow intoxicated. If you are safe to drive, a blue circle will appear. If not, red steering wheel appears. The Twitter sphere has, of course, gone crazy with it.

What is the newest trend from Tokyo, Japan? Adult swaddling. Otonamaki, literally translating to adult wrapping, is the therapy art of swaddling an adult woman in the hopes of getting rid of post-pregnancy aches and pains. After being wrapped, the female is to gently rock from side-to-side for 20 minutes.

CROSSWORD

By Peter A Collins

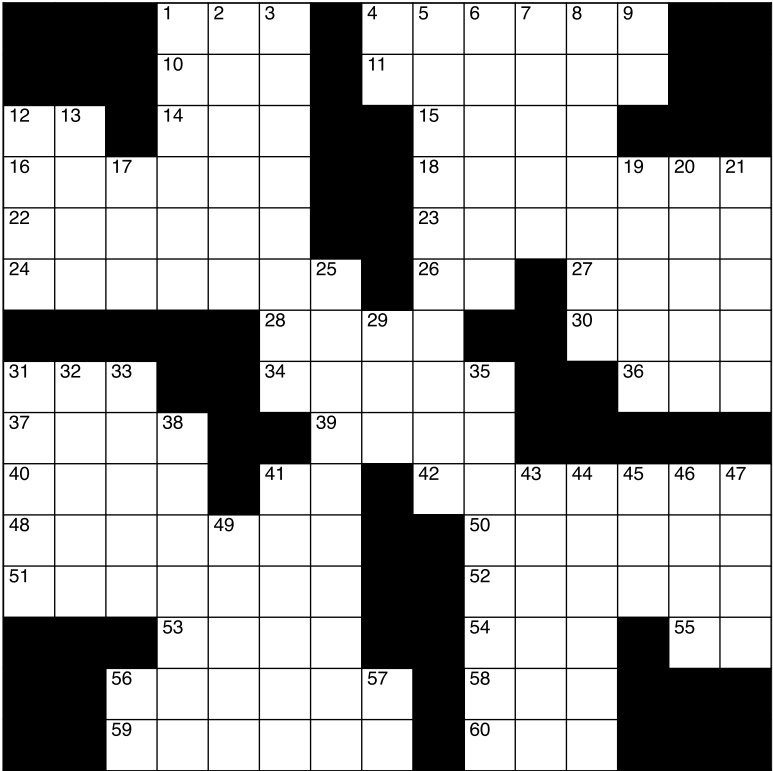
Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

Clues Across

- 1. Part of a can
- 4. A form of discrimination
- 10. Doctors’ group
- 11. Expression of joy
- 12. Spanish “be”
- 14. A mongrel
- 15. Helen was from here
- 16. With many branches
- 18. Fussy
- 22. Male fertilizing organ of a flower
- 23. Trap
- 24. Long, angry speeches
- 26. For instance
- 27. Sticky, waterlogged soil
- 28. Fasten
- 30. Card game
- 31. Seaport (abbr.)
- 34. Dresses worn in S. Asia
- 36. Midway between south and southeast
- 37. Of the mouth
- 39. Capital of Yemen
- 40. Branches of a bone
- 41. Very much
- 42. TV host Leeza
- 48. A way to change integrity
- 50. Plants with dark green, glossy leaves
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Agency
- 53. Wear this when eating ribs
- 54. Martial artists wear this
- 55. Peanut butter
- 56. Drinkers sit on these
- 58. Pie _ _ _ mode
- 59. Hebraic
- 60. River in India

Clues Down

- 1. City in Washington
- 2. Entertained
- 3. Nakedness
- 4. Exclamation of surprise
- 5. Instinct
- 6. Making a mistake



- 7. “Borgias” actor Jeremy
- 8. Phrases
- 9. Millihenry
- 12. Long ago
- 13. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 17. Disfigure
- 19. Horseshoe extension
- 20. Regions
- 21. Philippine Island
- 25. Appropriate for a particular time
- 29. Small constellation in the Milky Way
- 31. Categorizes
- 32. Malaysian boat
- 33. Natives of Sri Lanka
- 35. Type of vessel
- 38. Prescribe
- 41. Ranking
- 43. Knickknack
- 44. Funeral
- 45. Mineral can be extracted from this
- 46. Tide
- 47. Lump in yarn
- 49. Food on a skewer
- 56. Letter in the Albanian alphabet
- 57. Midway between south and west

SUDOKU

By MetroCreative

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7		5	6			4		
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			1	3				
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SOLUTIONS

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7	6	3	8	5	4	1	9	2
4	8	9	2	6	1	5	7	3
5	1	2	7	3	9	6	4	8
6	7	5	3	4	2	9	8	1
9	2	1	6	8	5	7	3	4
8	3	4	9	1	7	2	6	5

S	E	F	T	S				C	A	B	S				
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A	R	E	S					S	A	S					

Dystopia

People read haunting classics anticipating the future

MICHAEL CRIBE
A&E Reporter | @MikeCripe

On page 229 of George Orwell’s “1984,” protagonist Winston Smith reads a book and comes to the conclusion “The best books are those that tell you what you know already.” In a time where the real world may seem like a bad dream to some of us, these words could not be more relevant.

“1984” was published in 1949 and two weeks ago made its way onto the bestseller list. Its relevance during the time of its original publishing is unquestioned, but for the novel to show such an overwhelming demand in 2017 is both exciting and concerning.

Fear stemming from this news is perhaps the same fear causing it in the first place.

The recent trend in dystopian literature is hard to miss. In worlds such as “The Hunger Games,” “The Maze Runner,” and “Fahrenheit 451,” The government is trying to create a perfect society. The implement controls and regulations, isolate entire groups of people and follow one ideology.

While all of this is in attempt to make a utopia, or a perfect society, the readers are left to understand these worlds have an almost sinister nature to them.

“1984” tells the story of Winston Smith and the dystopian society he lives in. The mysterious and clearly powerful Big Brother is always watching the moves of every citizen, to ensure certain truths are not compromised.

Parallels between Orwell’s dystopia and the reality of today are not entirely farfetched. This is where many are left wondering if the fiction we have been familiar with for so long is not as fictionally based as once perceived.

Associate Professor of English Wayne Chandler feels many decisions made by Americans today may be made out of fear. He feels many voters have chosen their leader to follow, not because of aligned political beliefs, but because of fear of what the other party may do.

“I think it would be great if we could find a way to understand each other,” Chandler said. “Because if we don’t get over the fear we have of each other, I’m not sure how things are going to get better.”

Many believe in the relationship between fear and the increased popularity of “1984.” But, as with most things, those with a slightly altered perspective might see a different story being told.

Chandler goes on to describe why he thinks some may be interested in a nearly 70-year-old story. He believes the increase in popularity is a good sign.

While some may be fearful of our present, many might also be looking to books or movies with similar characteristics to reveal what people can do differently to prevent an even worse future.

“I would love to say this literature can provide fodder for thought,” Chandler said. “So maybe all these people who may be reading ‘1984’ for the first time are saying, ‘This makes me recognize something about the world, and maybe I can do something to avoid this world picture that the novel presents.’ But I do think readers may think they are seeing real-world parallels they never dreamed they would actually see.”

Regardless of belief or any type of group affiliation, there are some who have trouble finding fear in how they see the world today. So while many see a possible bleak future,

has done research on similar topics regarding trends of what people are interested in for one of his own books. The studies he found show a direct correlation between what content society is consuming and the political atmosphere.

“The reason dystopian content is more popular now has to do with the political and social climate,” Offutt said. “When people are scared or when they are uncertain about their future, they tend to look at topics that are a little bit more depressing.”

One thing nearly everyone seems to agree on is that the state of America’s social and political climate is abnormal. There is a lot to assess concerning the topic of politics in America and nobody is quite sure where to begin.

Dimitric Edwards, a senior English education major, is also knowledgeable on a wide array of dystopian content across a number of different artistic mediums. Edwards feels on the political side of things it is crucial for us to look at history in or-

“ The best books are those that tell you what you know already.

others see a world to learn from.

Senior Caitlyn Burkemper is familiar with a wide range of dystopian novels and television shows. One common trend she finds in all of them is the citizens’ power to make a difference.

“Like anything else, it’s how you look at it,” Burkemper said. “We have more power than we assume. We have all the power to have news coverage on things like the Women’s March or to point out flaws in any kind of leadership. So I think people are buying “1984” because they are afraid. At the very least, it gives people hope by putting the fear in them to do something and to take action.”

Burkemper said she does not believe in only looking for an end goal when fighting against a possible future dystopian society, she feels “1984” is a great example to fight for what you believe in, even when the odds are stacked against you.

“If you see a man in this future dystopian world fighting for what he believes in, whether he wins or loses, and he is better for it, you’d be encouraged to do the same thing too,” Burkemper said. “Of course I hope everything is okay. But when you have a new person who might shake everything up, it is mainly up to the people to put it back together.”

Senior Instructor Jason Offutt

der to move forward.

This being said, he feels a book such as “1984,” while pertinent to the subject matter of America’s political climate, is not exactly something to look at when predicting a possible future.

“Literature is always relevant; that’s why it’s written,” Edwards said. “So the fact that some people are seeing parallels is kind of scary. There are always commonalities in dystopian movies, books or games such as resistance groups or the want for change.”

Edwards sees the extremes, but feels for others a truly dystopian society may not be far off from where we are now.

“We see those things today and I’m glad people are aware of them, because we obviously don’t want to be a dystopian society,” Edwards said. “I don’t think we could ever get to how these societies are portrayed in some of our favorite pieces of literature, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t actively be trying to prevent it.”

George Orwell’s words on page 229 ring true today for many reasons. There are a myriad of different perspectives to be had, not just when comprehending literary subtext, but when looking at the real world as well.

20 Best Selling Dystopian Novels

1984 - George Orwell

The Windup Girl - Paolo Bacigalupi

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? - Philip K. Dick

Brave New World - Aldous Huxley

The Chrysalids - John Wyndham

A Clockwork Orange - Anthony Burgess

Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury

The Handmaid’s Tale - Margaret Atwood

The Hunger Games - Suzanne Collins

The Iron Heel - Jack London

Logan’s Run - William F. Nolan & George Clayton Johnson

Neuromancer - William Gibson

The Running Man - Richard Bachman

The Time Machine - H.G. Wells

Article 5 - Kristen Simmons

The Drowned World - J.G. Ballard

We - Yevgeny Zamyatin

Uglies - Scott Westerfeld

Oryx and Crake - Margaret Atwood

The Road - Cormac McCarthy



ALEXIS GEISERT | NW MISSOURIAN

This painting is one of Kursh's proudest accomplishments. It is an abstract painting depicting how Kursh views her own life. When Kursh sees something that inspires her, she tries to paint the way it makes her feel.



ALEXIS GEISERT | NW MISSOURIAN

Freshman Jori Kursh has been taking art classes since high school. While her major is graphic design, Kursh's true passion is painting. Friend of Kursh's, Mallory Krishna first noticed Kursh's work when she visited her dorm room.

Artist makes a career out of passion

CORIE HERTZOG
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Art is a way of self expression in a world full of restrictions and rules. For freshman Jori Kursh, her passion for art began with ceramics. “My teacher basically wanted me and my friends to join her ceramics class,” Kursh said. “My senior year of high school, I was in her ceramics class, her 3D class and her drawing and painting class.” These classes lead Kursh to enjoy photography and photoshop, helping her choose a major in graphic design. While her major is graphic design, Kursh loves painting the most. She finds it relaxing, even if she

does not always have time to paint. People often wonder if art imitates life or if life imitates art. Each artist takes what life hands them and makes it into something beautiful. Kursh has done just that. She likes to use lots of colors and abstract designs. This can be clearly seen in her favorite painting she completed. “I did a painting in high school,” Kursh said. “It’s an abstract painting. On one side it is two black lines with the three primary colors. On the other, the colors flow free.” Kursh favors this painting because it “represents her life.” “The reason why it works is because it’s meaningful to me,” Kursh said. “The lines represent my life

before college. I was constricted to do certain things because I was so young. But now that I’m on my own, the other side is free flow.” When it comes to inspiration, Kursh draws on music. She likes Chris Brown. “He’s either soft spoken or upbeat,” Kursh said. She is also a fan of Kendrick Lamar. “I like his words and how he speaks them. It just motivates me to do something.” Kursh is confident about her art. She feels that she inspires those around her to pursue their passions. “Art makes me feel good about myself,” Kursh said. “People are inspired by me and compliment me on

my stuff.” This is a positive trait, since she wants to display her art in logos and album covers. “I want to be well-known, but I don’t want to be completely famous,” Kursh said. While she may not be well-known now, her friend Mallory Krishna is taking notice of her work. “I first saw her art when I went to her room. We live on the same floor,” Krishna said. “Her art always makes me more curious and offset.” Krishna is personally fond of any of Kursh’s work that has eyes. “It’s like they’re watching you, not to judge, but to watch,” Krishna said.

Moving forward, Krishna does have some advice for her friend. “In the words of Journey, ‘Don’t Stop Believin.’ I hope Jori is successful in both her degree and her career. It’s a tough world and I hope her art makes an impact,” Krishna said. Kursh also has advice for other artists. “If you feel like you are good at art, or whatever you do, just keep doing it until you get better at it or until somebody recognizes you,” Kursh said. Whether through art, theatre or music, be like Kursh’s painting. Break through the black lines holding back the colors within and flow freely.

Film Club’s return to campus begins to sound reel

MICHAEL CRIPE
A&E Reporter | @MikeCripe

After a three-year break, Film Club is finally returning to Northwest to offer new cinematic opportunities to students. Sydney White, senior and president of Film Club, said the club will be having their first meeting on the Feb. 1 after a lack of leadership and members kept the club from continuing in early 2014. While it is keeping most of the same core ideas from the previous club, this newly-branded club offers a fresh start with a considerable number of potential members already interested. White said the inspiration to start the club up again came from a number of different places, including guidance from a past professor and her own want to give students new film-making opportunities. She

said a lack of film-focused courses on campus is what is pushing her to bring the club back from the dead. After Justin Ross, movie producer and Northwest alum, came back to Northwest to teach several courses, White noticed a growing interest in film. After communicating with Ross for guidance in starting a new film club, White began the process of bringing the club back to campus. “He brought back with him what he learned in school and his experiences in Los Angeles as a movie producer,” White said. “It sparked my interest and the interest of a lot of people who want to go into film. So, I really tried to take in as much as I could while he was here so I can hopefully use what he taught me to teach these other students.” White is hoping to reach out to many different students on campus, whether they are media majors or

not. The films White plans to help create in Film Club are intended to be around 10 minutes in length, but will undergo the full production process. This means actors, writers and others with different talents will be wanted to fully grasp the club’s future goals. “That’s what I’m hoping for, to reach out to people who aren’t just TV or broadcast majors,” White said. “We’re going to have people that are journalism majors, actors, and we even have one person who wants to join who is a business major. It’s totally different from what they want to do, but they have that interest in making films. If they have an interest, we want them to be able to try it out, and hopefully get their hands on experience.” Shane Webb, a junior mass media broadcast and production major, has been helping White with setting

up Film Club and is the vice president of the club. Webb hopes to go into the club with the skills he already has in production, so the films produced can be entered into the club’s own film festival and others down the road. “It gets us hands on with equipment. It gives us more time to create things, and it gives us more things to add to our demo reels,” Webb said. “It’s a way for us and other students outside of media to have access to content that can be used to show other people. Maybe this could be something that could lead to a job or a career. It’s just another opportunity, and that’s why it’s important for us to get the club back going again.” Because of the lack of classes and premature life of the previous club, getting the word out is crucial to White, not just for the sake of the club, but so students who are passionate about cinema get the op-

portunity to do something they really love with a group of people who want the same thing just as much. “If you’ve ever watched a movie and have wanted to do something like that, be a part of our club. We are going to let you have free reign and we will help you every step of the way,” White said. “If you are eager and willing to learn, we will have a product that you have worked for and that you are proud of.”

CONTACT INFORMATION

President Sydney White
S517260@nwmissouri.edu

Vice President Shane Webb
S520659@nwmissouri.edu

Meetings are Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in Wells Hall 141

THE STROLLER:

Your Bearcat wants you to understand mental health

Have you ever just sat there in the shower and let the water run cold over your body? Have you let the tears fall and just not been OK? Sometimes I think everyone forgets how college can just suck the life out of you. You become numb to the world. You stop feeling the pain of every single let-down, bad grade and toxic friendship. You drown out all the pain with alcohol and drugs to not feel anything. You desensitize yourself. Then something snaps in you, and all at once you can feel every terrible thing. Sometimes it takes everything to drag yourself out of bed.

Sometimes you are screaming for someone to just ask you “Are you OK? No, I mean really OK?” I want to tell you I am not. But I do not think you ever really listen. I want to be able to tell my teachers I failed a test because I honestly could not focus on studying the materials because of the anxiety I had looking at them. I want to tell people, that are disappointed, I did not turn in my intern application because as soon as I mentioned to my friends that I wanted to move, they started to pull away. I want to scream at the world for making me question myself. I never thought I would be afraid of what is next. Why, at my age, do I

feel like I am never good enough for anyone? I cannot explain to my mom why I am angry all the time or why the smallest things set me off. I cannot explain anything to her. She does not understand it. She does not think someone my age can be this upset or hurt by the world. College has a way of breaking you, building you up, making you strong and then taking it all away. Sometimes it takes more than just a day for me to build myself back and that is OK. I need everyone to understand this. I need everyone to get off my back. I am a college kid and I need everyone to see there are times I

am not OK. I know you see a smile on my face and think I am living a fabulous life. You do not always see everything going on in the background. You do not see that I lost my best friend in the whole world. You do not see me struggling to focus in classes and having three jobs. All you see is the smile. You do not get to see the sleepless nights I pull to finish papers or to fill out law school applications. You do not actually see me. What I want you to see is when I am having a terrible day and I am finally choosing to not be OK. I want you to see the real me. I want people to see the mis-

takes and to apologize. I want people to see the hurt, because I will not break often. I am a college student and I am stronger than I should have to be. I want you to see me not having a perfect life. I want you to know it is OK to not be OK every day. It is just not OK to live there. I want you to take care of yourself, Bearcats.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

Football finds catch in athletic receivers

TREY RANDLE
Chief Sports Reporter | @treyrock36

A common saying among top-tier football programs is “we do not rebuild, we reload.” This saying is loosely translated as: when one player leaves, another steps up and takes his or her place. Since the early 2000s, Northwest has followed that motto religiously, winning four national championships in the past eight years. A large amount of credit goes to the consistency on the defensive side of the ball. A top de-



fense year-in-and-year-out speaks volumes to the effort displayed, and the amount of players that have earned All-American honors shows the talent. On offense, playmakers at the quarterback and running back spots have kept Northwest a top unit for years. Names such as Bolles (both), Omon, Osborn and Zimmerman stick out when analyzing what has enabled Northwest to be successful over the years. One position that has seen just as much success and consistency is the wide receiver position. From Jake Soy to Shawn Bane,

Northwest has produced talent at an elite level for the better part of a decade. Northwest seeks to continue that tradition with the signing of five wide receivers for the 2017 recruiting class. With the additions of Armani Carmickle, Gus Gomez, Kendell Gould, Cuttar Huss and Dante Keys, coach Rich Wright and his fellow staff hope to have hit a homerun. “The kids can play multiple positions,” Wright said. “They are all long and they are all athletic.” One player that stands out is Carmickle. The Kenosha, Wisconsin native showed his ability

to stretch the field and make big plays, catching 11 touchdowns and tallying up over 800 receiving yards. A two-sport athlete, Carmickle knows before he can make an impact on the field, he must first embrace the process. “Nothing is going to be given to me,” Carmickle said. “I know that I am going to have to work harder than the guy next to me.” With his ability to stretch the field, Carmickle should pair nicely with fellow signee, quarterback Braden Wright. Not only did Carmickle excel in football, he also received a scholarship offer to run

track at Northwest. “Explosive kid,” Wright said. “When you are good enough to get offered in two sports, then you are a pretty good athlete.”



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NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

Baseball back in action

JAMES HOWEY
Chief Sports Reporter | @How_eyseesit

The Northwest baseball team is hoping to take the next step this season. Northwest made the MIAA tournament for the first time since 2010 last year and hopes to build on that momentum this season. The Bearcats will start the season this weekend with three games at Alva, Oklahoma. One game is against Fort Hays State and the other two are against Northwest Oklahoma State. Northwest has 12 returning seniors this season. Coach Darin Loe said that having this much experience is crucial for success in the MIAA. “It sure makes practice and game planning easier,” Loe said. “The biggest thing is just knowing how good this league is, and knowing that you need to be prepared every day or you’ll get beat in this conference.” The Bearcats return four All-MIAA selections from last year. Senior pitchers Anthony Caene-



peel and Nikko Pablo were third team All-MIAA. Senior second baseman Ozzie Adams and junior first baseman Kevin Handzlik were honorable mentions. Loe says this group offers more stability at key positions that Northwest has not seen in years past. “With other teams, we’ve had so many unknowns,” Loe said. “You don’t know who can handle the pressure of hitting in the four hole or being a Friday starter. We know what those guys did last year, and hopefully they are able to replicate that.” Northwest had the fifth best earned run average in the MIAA last year at 5.25 and had most of its pitching staff returning. Caenepeel has the most wins for the returning pitchers, with a 5-10 record and a 5.07 earned run average. Caenepeel hopes to improve this season to be a linchpin in the Northwest rotation. “The goal for me this season is to go out and give our team the best chance to win in each of my starts and get us back to the conference tournament,” Caenepeel said. “The

strength of our team are our pitching staff. We are a veteran group this year and are hoping to have a lot of success.” The major improvement the Bearcats are looking for this season is getting more runs on the board and being more aggressive on offense. Northwest had the second-worst batting average in the MIAA last year at .279 and was last in home runs with 24. Loe says making noise on the base paths will help give them a new edge this season. “We have really talked about making a difference on the base paths,” Loe said. “I think that’s an area where we can make a move on some other teams and not play station to station.” One goal the Bearcats will shoot for is grabbing a top four seed come MIAA tournament time. Loe said that is something the Bearcats should not be intimidated by. “I think that’s a realistic goal, and probably not too high or too low,” Loe said. The Bearcats open the season 12 p.m. Feb. 3 at Alva, Oklahoma, against Fort Hays State.



HANNAH WOODSON | NW MISSOURIAN
Freshman Infielder Matt Gastner joins a team with 12 returning seniors.

CLASS CONTINUED FROM A12

“I think we kind of stole this kid,” Wright said. “He has a good motor. I also think this kid has a great work ethic.” The Bearcats found a gem in kicker Parker Sampson. From Park Hill High School, the MFCA All-State kicker set seven Missouri State High School kicking and punting records and will be in contention for a starting position come fall season. “He’s one of those kids that could be the guy next year,” Wright said. “We offered this kid at camp. We watched him at camp and he’s got an explosive leg. The ball jumps off of his foot.” Jafar Armstrong from Mission, Kansas received Division I scholarships from colleges including Missouri, Baylor, Kan-

sas, Minnesota and Notre Dame. Armstrong ended up signing his letter of intent with the Fighting Irish. At Northwest’s annual football camp, Bearcat signee Trey Washington proved to be the more dominant force. “This kid (Washington) rocked that kid (Armstrong) down at camp... I’m not sure I have to say much more than that,” Wright said. Northwest Athletics will be announcing two more transfer athletes Feb. 2, including an offensive lineman and a kicker. **FOR DETAILS ON TRANSFERS, OTHER SIGNING DAY NEWS, GO TO NWMISSOURINEWS.COM OR FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @NWMSPORTS**

MARYVILLE CONTINUED FROM A12

The Bearcat coaching staff caught eye of Tripp at the individual team camp in summer 2016. He used the two sessions of the one-day event to prove he had what it takes to be a Bearcat. “It was honestly the hardest individual camp I have ever had,” Tripp said. “I was thinking ‘I know I’m physical and fast off the ball,’ but I was also going to be that guy who was coachable.” White spent his time as a Spoofhound protecting quarterback Trey Oglesby as a offensive lineman. The group allowed Oglesby to be sacked just once. He also spent time on the defensive line, creating 6.5 tackles. White announced his commitment Jan. 6. Northwest lists White at 6’1” and 265 pounds

“He made the decision to do things the right way, and really made himself into a college athlete,” Webb said. “That is commitment to the strength program and buying into the process. He will do very well.” The offensive lineman has dreamt of playing at Northwest since he was little, and knew the family atmosphere was for him. Living just steps away from Wright, he knew the right steps to show he had what it takes to be a part of the Bearcat way. “I knew since he was my neighbor I would have to not do anything dumb in the neighborhood,” White said. “I always knew he would be watching. Him being there was really being beneficial.” Jakob Gray also joined the four in inking their collegiate decision. He will head to Truman State, listed as a tight end.

ATHLETES of the WEEK

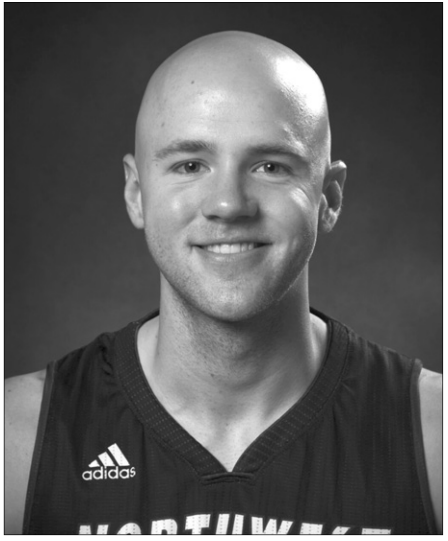


BEARCATS

SPOOFHOUNDS




Zach Schneider



Zenova Harris



John Zimmerman



Felicia Sheil



The senior scored 23 points in Northwest’s 74-58 victory over Missouri Western. Schneider is ranked No. 1 in the MIAA with 3.5 three-point shots attempted per game.

The senior won the women’s 60-meter dash and set a NCAA provisional mark with a time of 7.71 seconds at the Concordia Classic. Harris also won the fifth heat of the 200 meter dash.

The senior guard put up 15 points in a 62-43 victory over Bishop LeBlond Jan. 31. Zimmerman put up 12 points the night before in a 60-43 route over Plattsburg.

The senior guard put up 12 points in a 48-39 loss to Lathrop Jan. 31. The girls have won four of their last seven games

Homecourt guides boys into final stretch

JOSEPH ANDREWS
Assistant Sports Editor | @Joe_Andrews15

Spoofhound boys basketball hopes to exert its energy ahead of the regular season’s final test.



Nine of Maryville’s last 10 games have been played on the road, and the Spoofhounds won seven in the process. During that stretch, Maryville has had no more than four days in between contests. Four matchups remain in the regular season with a conference title in sights.

“We’re tired, but it’s not too bad,” sophomore Eli Dowis said. “Coach lets us have a little easier practices. He knows it is hard on us.”

The shooting guard led the Spoofhounds with 16 points in a 60-43 victory over Plattsburg (9-9) Jan. 30. Right behind was senior point guard John Zimmerman, who had 12 points.

This marked the first home matchup for the Spoofhounds since Jan. 10. Three of the remaining four games will be held at home.

“The energy they bring every single game, they are insane, they are nuts,” coach Matt Stoecklein said. “Playing at home is just awesome. Even though they travel with us, at home they are even better.”

Maryville led most of the game, despite a short period in the first quarter. By halftime, the team led 34-19.

“At times, we moved the ball well and we executed things well,” Stoecklein said. “I don’t think our defensive mindset was completely there tonight, but we’ve played eight road games in a row, and sometimes it’s hard to bring that every night.”

The Spoofhounds pulled away in the third quarter, scoring 18 points,



SHAWNA KINGSTON | NW MISSOURIAN

Sophomore forward Eli Dowis finishes off a two-handed slam in the Spoofhounds 60-43 win over Plattsburg Jan. 30.

eight coming from Dowis. The Spoofhounds led 54-34 following a dunk by Dowis a minute into the fourth quarter, leading Stoecklein to pull his starting five.

The five who came out had been alternating in and out alongside the

starters, playing the final two minutes of each prior quarter.

“Your legs are tired, you’re beat up and you’re worn out,” Stoecklein said. “Like I said, seven games in a row. They were tough games, and none of them were easy. It’s nice to

get home and not have to travel. It is such a blessing to be here.”

Midway through the fourth quarter, the student section found its way into the game, cheering for an appearance from junior Peter Kempf. A few minutes later, junior

Zach Patton and freshman Tate Oglesby were also on the court.

The three have spent much of the season competing with the junior varsity team. The three represent just a small picture of the program’s future, as four of five starters are seniors.

“They are a great bunch to watch,” Stoecklein said. “If you ever come to watch a JV game and watch them, they are energetic. They are flying all over the place. They bring so much energy in, and they are fun to watch.”

The Spoofhounds carried over the momentum in a 62-43 win against Bishop LeBlond Jan. 31. The game followed much of the same fashion as the night before, making sure each of the starters stayed in shape.

Maryville opened up the first quarter on a 20-8 run. Scoring slowed down in the second quarter, making the score 30-15 heading into halftime.

By the third quarter, Maryville had ran away with the game, up 47-26 over the Golden Eagles.

Zimmerman finished the game with 15 points, followed by senior shooting guard Jackson Golightly with 10 points.

Next up for Maryville is Smithville Feb. 3. A win keeps the Spoofhounds in reach of the Midland Empire conference, right behind St. Joseph Benton.

The Spoofhounds beat the Warriors 58-53 in the Cameron Tournament Invitational Jan. 23.

“Their zone is soft a little bit, but we will be ready for them Friday,” Dowis said.

NEXT GAME

Smithville @ Maryville

Feb. 3 @ 7 p.m.

Hot streak provides new outlook

AMBER GIERSTORF
Chief Sports Reporter | @ambermae30

As the regular season comes to a close, the Maryville girls basketball team has finally hit its stride, tripling its total wins in the last three weeks.



The Spoofhounds racked up wins against Falls City and St. Joseph Bishop LeBlond while suffering a tough loss to Penney High School. They then headed to Cameron to compete in the Cameron Invitational Tournament.

Maryville started the tournament with a 38-28 loss to Lawson, immediately putting the team in the consolation bracket.

The Spoofhounds made a quick turnaround in just two days and defeated Excelsior Springs 50-22 in the second round, putting them up against the host team in the championship of the consolation bracket.

Maryville rallied in the second half of the championship game with a 50-43 victory over the Dragons on their home court.

This marks the Spoofhounds’ sixth victory and shows that they are able to play strong through an entire game, coach Quentin Albrecht said.

“Of our last six games, we’ve won four, and we’ve only played one bad quarter,” Albrecht said. “We’re starting to put together full 32-minute games, which is what we really need to be successful.”

After eight games on the road,

the Spoofhounds finally headed back to Maryville to face Lathrop on their own court.

Despite strong second, third and fourth quarters, Maryville fell to the Mules 39-48.

The Spoofhounds dug themselves into a hole at the beginning of the game, ending the first quarter down 20-8.

Lathrop sophomore Brooke Huitt hit three shots from behind the arc in the first quarter alone, putting up 12 of her team’s 20 points.

Heading into the second quarter, Maryville stepped up its offense and defense, outscoring Lathrop 11-10. The Spoofhounds ended the half down 19-30 but with momentum on their side heading into the third.

Coming out after halftime, Maryville switched from playing zone defense to man-to-man, which helped limit Lathrop’s exceptional outside shooters and hold them to eight points.

Lathrop also went into man-to-man defense, keeping Maryville at bay with only six points, and ending the frame with a score of 25-38.

The highlight of the game for the Spoofhounds came in the fourth quarter when they went on an 11-0 run, bringing them within five points of the Mules.

Maryville attempted to stop the clock the last few minutes of the game by fouling, but Huitt hit six out of seven free throws to extend Lathrop’s lead and claim the win.

Senior Felicia Sheil led the Spoofhounds, scoring 12 points,

with fellow senior Abbie Greeley close behind her with nine.

Sheil said she is proud of how her team performed, but knows the team has a long way to go before the postseason.

“We definitely have more work to do, but I think things are starting to come together for us,” Sheil said. “We are all working really hard, and I think as the season progresses, everything will start to come together.”

Maryville has a difficult schedule coming up, with games against Smithville, Chillicothe and St. Joseph Benton, all within the next two weeks. Although these are all highly ranked teams, Maryville definitely has a chance to improve before the postseason, Albrecht said.

“The next nine days we have some really really tough games,” Albrecht said. “We know that they are mountains to climb and that we are definitely the underdog, but we are basically the underdog every time we step onto the floor, so I don’t think we are afraid of it.”

NEXT GAMES

Maryville @ Smithville

Feb. 2 @ 7 p.m.

Chillicothe @ Maryville

Feb. 7 @ 6:30 p.m.

Maryville @ St. Joseph Benton

Feb. 9 @ 6:30 p.m.

Cameron @ Maryville

Feb. 13 @ 6:30 p.m.



SHAWNA KINGSTON | NW MISSOURIAN

Senior guard Felicia Sheil puts her defender on skates against Lathrop Jan 31.

NW MEN’S BASKETBALL

MIAA Standings

	Overall	MIAA
NORTHWEST.....	19-0	11-0
Central Missouri.....	14-5	8-3
Nebraska Kearney.....	14-6	7-4
Central Oklahoma.....	12-7	7-4
Missouri Southern.....	13-8	7-5
Washburn.....	14-6	6-5
Emporia St.....	10-10	6-5
Lincoln.....	13-8	6-6
Fort Hays St.....	11-8	5-6
Lindenwood.....	15-9	5-7
Southwest Baptist.....	11-9	4-7
Missouri Western.....	6-13	3-8
Northeastern St.....	3-16	2-9
Pittsburg St.....	4-16	2-10

Feb. 2
Northwest at Lincoln

Feb. 4
Northwest at Lindenwood

NW WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

MIAA Standings

	Overall	MIAA
Central Oklahoma.....	19-1	10-1
Central Missouri.....	17-2	10-1
Pittsburg St.....	18-3	10-2
Emporia St.....	17-3	8-3
Missouri Western.....	15-5	7-4
Fort Hays St.....	15-5	6-5
Washburn.....	13-7	6-5
Missouri Southern.....	11-10	6-6
Lindenwood.....	8-11	4-8
Southwest Baptist.....	11-9	3-8
Nebraska Kearney.....	7-12	3-8
NORTHWEST.....	7-11	2-9
Northeastern St.....	6-13	2-9
Lincoln.....	3-16	2-10

Feb. 2
Northwest at Lincoln

Feb. 4
Northwest at Lindenwood

MHS BOYS BASKETBALL

MEC Standings

	Overall	MEC
Benton.....	11-6	3-0
MARYVILLE.....	16-3	5-1
Savannah.....	6-7	2-1
Lafayette.....	6-12	2-1
Chillicothe.....	10-9	1-1
Cameron.....	8-10	1-1
Bishop LeBlond.....	7-13	0-3
Smithville.....	1-13	0-3

Feb. 3
Smithville at Maryville

MHS GIRLS BASKETBALL

MEC Standings

	Overall	MEC
Lafayette.....	8-6	1-0
Chillicothe.....	17-1	2-0
Benton.....	11-4	3-0
MARYVILLE.....	6-14	1-1
Savannah.....	2-7	0-1
Cameron.....	2-9	0-1
Smithville.....	9-7	0-2
Bishop LeBlond.....	3-14	0-2

Feb. 7
Chillicothe at Maryville

Women fight for postseason chance

AMBER GIERSTORF
Chief Sports Reporter | @ambermae30

Despite a disappointing loss Jan. 28, the Bearcat women still have a chance of making the MIAA Conference Tournament at the end of the season.

Northwest is ranked 12th out of 14 teams, and it needs to maintain that standing in order to claim a spot in the conference tournament. The Bearcats are tied for the No. 12 spot with Northeastern State, who is also sitting at 2-9.

The Bearcats have an excellent opportunity to boost their standing Feb. 2, when they head to Jefferson City to play Lincoln University.

Lincoln is 3-16 overall this season and is sitting at the bottom of the MIAA standing with a record of 2-10, the worst in the conference.

After losing to Missouri Western Feb. 28, the Bearcats need a win over Lincoln to stay in the running for the post season.

Saturday's loss to the Griffons, 57-78, brings Northwest's record to 7-11 overall.

Northwest started the game off hot, ending the first quarter tied with the Griffons at 20.

They had another strong performance during the second quarter and went into halftime only down one, with Missouri Western leading 32-31. That is the last time the Bearcats came close to the Griffons.

Coming out of for the second half, Northwest was unable to pick up where it left off. By the end of the third, Missouri Western had taken a 44-54 lead and outscored the Bearcats 13-22. The last quarter did not get any better for Northwest, which only scored 13 points, while the Griffons scored 24.

The Bearcats beat out Missouri Western in just about every major category, including field goal percentage and three-point percentage. Northwest shot at just under 58 percent from the field, and 46 percent from behind the arc.

The Bearcats also pulled in 30 rebounds, six of which came on the offensive end of the court.

The Griffons only shot 49 percent from the field and 33 percent from the three-point line. They also only had 24 rebounds, and the Bearcat bench outscored the Missouri Western bench 18-12. Overall, this was not enough to pull off the win for Northwest.

The Bearcats' major struggle was their turnovers. They turned the ball over 30 times throughout the game, while the Griffons only had eight turnovers.

They also only had three steals, compared to 15 from Missouri Western. In the end, the poor ball control on the offensive side for Northwest proved to be more than the Bearcats could overcome.

Stability and regularity has been an issue for the team all season long. Some days the girls work hard and perform well, and other days it is anyone's guess as to how they will play, coach Buck Sheel said.

"Saturday's game wasn't pretty,



SHAWNA KINGSTON | NW MISSOURIAN

Junior forward Tanya Meyer drives past Nebraska-Kearney senior guard Alexa Hogberg in Bearcat Arena Jan 19. Meyer had nine points and three steals in the 69-64 loss.

but you know we've had situations like that all season," Sheel said. "We've been an inconsistent team... so it's tough going into every game not knowing what kind of performance we're going to get."

In one of their most recent games, the Bearcats pulled off a huge 92-80 upset over Fort Hays State, which is ranked No. 23 in the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's Top 15 poll. This was ar-

guably their most impressive performance in any game over the past two seasons.

Following up such a major win with such a huge loss proves just how much the Bearcats struggle from game to game.

Looking ahead to next week, Sheel said they could go either way.

"Going into this week with Lincoln and Lindenwood, they are going to be tough games," Sheel said.

"They're teams right in the same areas as we are in the standings, and they are teams that we could very easily beat, or teams that we could very easily lose to."

Sheel said that in the end, it all comes down to how hard the players work in practice and how much they want to make it to the postseason.

"My biggest talk with them was 'how do they want to feel going into that last regular season game?'"

Sheel said. "Last year, during our last home game, we knew it was our last game of the season, and between now and then it's in our hands what happens."

NEXT GAME

Northwest @ Lincoln

Feb. 2 @ 5:30 p.m.

Northwest @ Lindenwood

Feb. 4 @ 1:30 p.m.

Defense still the secret for No. 1 ranked Bearcats' success

ISAIAH SWANN
Sports Editor | @iswanny3503

Northwest basketball coach Ben McCollum stands firm in his defensive standard.

The No. 1 Bearcats (19-0, 11-0 MIAA) have assembled the second-best scoring defense in Division II basketball, allowing an average of just 60.8 points per game.

McCollum's mindset is clear.

"If you can't guard, you just don't play," McCollum said. "If they don't feel like playing defense, we will put the next guy in."

McCollum has been a defensive fanatic since arriving at Northwest in 2009. The former Bearcat athlete drills the importance of the team's defensive efforts in every game and every practice.

"From day one when I got this job, we probably spent 75 percent of our practices on defense," McCollum said. "We worked on guarding the basketball, rotating and recovering. It's nice to trust in our defense."

Northwest will wrap up the last two games of a three-game road stretch Feb. 2 and 4. The first game, a trip to Jefferson City in a match-up against middle-of-the-conference foe Lincoln (13-8), is where the Blue Tigers will hold their annual "White-Out" game.

Northwest scoring in the 2016-2017 season has always been a mys-

tery. The question marks surrounding the Bearcats' point totals is not 'how' the Bearcats will score but 'who' will be doing the scoring.

Recently, the 'who' has been the constant presence of senior Zach Schneider. The forward found himself in the record books Dec. 31 eclipsing his 302 three-pointer, giving him the most marks in MIAA history.

Since then, Schneider has boosted that number up to 328, along with shooting a red hot 48 percent for three-pointers for the season.

This weekend, Northwest's defense will be put to the test in being pinned against one of the most efficient teams in the conference.

Lincoln possesses the second-best turnover margin (3.95) in the conference. The Blue Tigers' ball security ranks as one of the best. Lincoln also ranks No. 5 in the MIAA in



BRIA CREEDEN | NW MISSOURIAN

Senior D'Vante Mosby and junior Justin Pitts dive on a loose ball in the Bearcats 82-72 victory over Fort Hays State.

scoring offense.

"I think they have some of the better guards in the conference," McCollum said. "They can really score and they can really get

streaky."

The caveat to that statistic is the Bearcats' turnover margin sitting at 4.58, landing Northwest at the peak of the MIAA conference. The

Bearcats also rank No. 4 in the country in assist-to-turnover ratio, with a 1.57 per-game average.

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MFCFA All-State 2016



Elijah Green LB
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MFCFA All-State 2016

SOURCE: NFHSNETWORK.COM

ALEXANDRA MELO-MORA | NW MISSOURIAN

A trio of 'Hounds to forgo their collegiate careers in the town they grew up in

2017 Signees Bearcat Football

Michael Ahrendsen	La Porte City, IA	OL
Phillip Blaine	Apopka, FL	DT
Calvin Bright	Roland, IA	DE
Armani Carmickle	Kenosha, WI	WR
Jack Carnie	Roca, NE	OL
Braden Dey	Lincoln, NE	LB
Jacob Erdman	Plover, WI	OL
TJ Garrity	Waukesha, WI	DE
Cody Gilman	Hardin, IL	OL
Gus Gomez	Stilwell, KS	WR
Kendall Gould	Waukesha, WI	WR
Elijah Green	Maryville, MO	LB
David High	Matteson, IL	OL
Kadon Hulett	Creston, IA	DE
Keilon Hunter	Overland Park, KS	DB
Cuttar Huss	Troy, KS	WR
Dante Keys	Plainfield, IN	WR
Jack Moore	Oskaloosa, IA	LB
Sam Phillips	Tabor, IA	LB
Israel Pitchford	Waukesha, WI	LB
Cole Rollinger	Eldridge, IA	DB
Eli Ross	Kansas City, MO	LB
Corbin Ruth	Malcolm, NE	DB
Jacob Ruzicka	Wahoo, NE	TE
Parker Sampson	Kansas City, MO	K
Chase Shiltz	Creston, IA	RB
Cody Tanner	Greenfield, IA	OL
Raymond Thomas	Bradenton, FL	RB
Jordan Thompson	Apopka, FL	RB
Tucker Tripp	Maryville, MO	DE
Jared Vineyard	Kansas City, MO	TE
Jackson Walker	Solon, IA	DE
Trey Washington	Grimes, IA	DB
Jake White	Maryville, MO	OL
Max Whittman	Kansas City, MO	OL
Braden Wright	Elkhorn, NE	QB

SOURCE: BEARCATSPORTS.COM

ALEXANDRA MELO-MORA | NW MISSOURIAN

JOSEPH ANDREWS
Assistant Sports Editor | @Joe_Andrews15

Three Maryville High School athletes inked their commitment to continue championship-level performances as members of Bearcat football.



Elijah Green, Tucker Tripp and Jake White signed their National Letters of Intent Feb. 1. They join seven former Spoofhounds under coach Rich Wright.

Each of the three helped lead Maryville to a runner-up finish in the 2016 Class 3 State Championship. They also joined seven other Spoofhounds as part of the 2016 Missouri Football Coaches Association (MFCFA) All-State team.

"It's very rewarding to watch them grow up," Maryville coach Matt Webb said. "To make the decisions like they have made, these guys represent a very first-class manner of what a student athlete means."

The Spoofhound coaching staff aims to develop students to know what it takes to be a successful student athlete. Athletes who take the advice seriously have the chance to work their way into a collegiate football program.

Wright acknowledges the work done at Maryville High School, and says it is a crucial part in keeping hometown athletes adjusted to becoming well-rounded collegiate athletes.

"We're the big show in town," Wright said. "Those kids dream about playing here. When an offer comes from Northwest Missouri State, it is a pretty big deal. They work pretty hard in trying to achieve that goal."

Green served as a running back and linebacker over his four years at Maryville. He put up 837 yards offensively with 13 touchdowns. Defensively, he recorded 51 tackles and 20.5 tackles for loss along with 1.5 sacks for a loss of five yards.

A press release by the Northwest Missouri State Athletic Department lists the 5'11" 240-pound athlete as a linebacker.

"Elijah is the definition of leader," Webb said. "The way he carries himself everyday, he is consistently a leader in the school hallways and on our football team. He trains himself very well and is going to be able to go on and play college football."

Green announced his intent to attend Northwest in October following an extensive recruiting process. Interest to play at Northwest was no question.

The linebacker is the son of the Chief of University Police Clarence Green. Clarence also had a stint at Northwest from 1991-1993. Green says his father's role at Northwest, combined with hometown appeal, was essential for his decision.

"He just said 'go wherever you feel best at,'" Green said. "Having that feeling of knowing what the game atmosphere was like, and standing on the sideline as a little kid and seeing pictures of my dad in the uniform was something I wanted to do."

Tripp spent his time as a Spoofhound creating pressure to the opposing offense as a defensive end. He finished his senior season with a team-leading 54.5 tackles, and recorded 20.5 tackles for loss and 8.5 sacks.

Tripp is listed by the Northwest Athletic Department as a 6'3" 230-pound linebacker. He verbally committed to being a Bearcat Jan. 4.

"I can't say enough about what he does athletically on the defensive side of the ball," Webb said. "Watching him mature is kind of a realization to the dream to go play college football. Again, a very good leader."

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Wright's first class awakens

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After the National Signing Day events ended, Northwest football came away with 36 student athletes committing to the Bearcat family.



"I'm thrilled," coach Rich Wright said. "Overall, the places we hit, we feel like we hit a home-run with this class."

The collection of athletes range from eight different states including Iowa (10), Missouri (seven), Nebraska (five), Wisconsin (five), Florida (three), Kansas (three), Illinois (two) and Indiana (one).

The 2017 class brings in talent from all across the board, including a trio from Maryville High School, a dynamic pair from a Florida high school powerhouse, a kicker who has potential to start next season, three Creston, Iowa natives and much more.

Wright and his staff examine many key traits when going through the recruiting process. One of those highlighted areas includes a multi-talented athlete.

"We don't like the kids that just specialize in one sport," Wright said. "We like those multiple-sport athletes."

From Apopka High School in Florida, defensive tackle Philip Blaine signed his National Letter of Intent after completing a 2014 8A State Championship, two district crowns and being selected to the Central Florida All-Star team.

"Apopka is a successful football program in Florida," Wright said. "Their culture is a lot like ours. This kid just jumped off the tape when we watched him."

Running back Jordan Thompson is the second dynamic athlete from Apopka. The 190-pound back looked at other universities, including Charleston Southern and Maryland, but when his final decision arrived, the answer was clear.

"Northwest Missouri wins championships," Thompson said. "I committed to Northwest because the coaches made me feel like I was part of their football family as soon as I walked in the door."

Tailback Raymond Thomas is the final Florida athlete on the signing-day list. The 5'7" speedster will be difficult to stop when he finds the opening in the defense.

"He's dangerous with the football," Wright said. "He's a home-run guy. Not big, but he's got phenomenal balance and can go."

Wright said the two Florida run-

ning backs will be the perfect one-two punch.

"If that kid up above (Thompson) is lightning, this kid (Thomas) is thunder," Wright said.

The Bearcats also got their hands on five athletes out of Wisconsin. The state has no Division II colleges within its lines, making athletes such as 300-pound offensive lineman Jack Carnie a perfect candidate for the Bearcat way.

"I like this kid," Wright "I'm going to call him big country. Just kind of rough and tumble. In his film he looks like a mawler."

Another Wisconsin native, Jacob Erdman, will join Carnie on the offensive line weighing in at 285 pounds and measuring at 6'3".

"The first adjective I'll use to describe him is physical," Wright said. He likes to punch people in the mouth and he's not afraid to finish blocks."

Another physical specimen includes 6'4" 240-pound defensive end TJ Garrity.

Garrity was named the No. 16 best prospect in the state of Wisconsin by WISSports.com. The All-Country performer received an offer from Division I Mountain West Conference competitor, New Mexico.

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